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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/988,253	11/19/2001	Rod Harbin	WHP 3001	8388
30868	7590	05/18/2004	EXAMINER	
KRAMER & AMADO, P.C. 2001 JEFFERSON DAVIS HWY SUITE 1101 ARLINGTON, VA 22202			LEITH, PATRICIA A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1654	

DATE MAILED: 05/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/988,253	HARBIN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Patricia Leith	1654	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9-11 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2,4,5,7 and 8 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 3 and 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application.

Claims 9-11 were withdrawn from the merits as being directed toward a non-elected invention in the Office Action dated 2/18/03.

Claims 1-8 were examined on the merits.

Applicant's arguments pertaining to the previous rejections were persuasive and the previous rejections are hereby removed. However, a new rejection follows:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kikkawa et al. (1959).

Kikkawa et al. (1959) examined the storage effect of certain stabilizers on potassium content in whole blood (Abstract). Specifically, Kikkawa et al. added stabilizers such as glutathione to the whole blood, which was suspended in a phosphate buffer at pH 7.6, and refrigerated for up to 4 weeks at 5 °C (Tables 1 and 2). Because buffers contain water, the term 'aqueous medium' is deemed anticipated by the blood containing buffer disclosed by Kikkawa et al. It is noted that terms in a claim are given their broadest interpretation when applying prior art unless they are specifically defined in the Instant specification. It is not found where Applicant has specifically defined the term 'aqueous medium' in the Specification and thus, the Examiner interprets 'aqueous medium' to mean any medium containing water.

It is deemed that the decrease of $[A]/[A]_0$ as a function of time is an inherent property of the glutathione in solution and therefore does not materially change the method since no method step is needed for this property to occur. Additionally, where the claims state 'wherein storage at said predetermined temperature causes a reduction in a rate constant for dimerization of reduced glutathione...to form oxidized glutathione is also an inherent property of the method for storing whole blood in a pH 7.6 buffer at 5 °C. Further, it was clear from Kikkawa et al. that the blood solution was refrigerated at 5 °C, the blood composition was stored below 15°C, but above the freezing point of the solution thereby anticipating the claimed invention.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3 and 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

No Claims are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patricia Leith whose telephone number is (571) 272-0968. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brenda Brumback can be reached on (571) 272-0968. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Patricia Leith
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1654

05/04/04



**PATRICIA LEITH
PRIMARY EXAMINER**